

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please enter the following amendments:

1-3. (Cancelled)

4. (Original) An isolated and purified recombinant nucleic acid encoding a hemoglobin receptor protein having an amino acid sequence that is the amino acid sequence depicted as Seq. I.D. No. 8.

5. (Original) A recombinant expression construct comprising a nucleic acid that encodes a hemoglobin receptor protein from a *Neisseria* species having an amino acid sequence that is the amino acid sequence depicted as Seq. I.D. No. 8.

6. (Original) A transformed cell culture comprising the recombinant expression construct of Claim 5.